DRAGONAR
ACADEMY
5
ART BY
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STORY BY
SHIKI MIZUCHI

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, NUAZA BECAME A MAESTRO DRAGON!
AND SHE WAS ABLE TO SAVE THE YOUNG GIRL WITH HER ICY BREATH.
A MAESTRO DRAGON IS THE SYMBOL OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!
HERE'S THE THING TO REMEMBER, SYLVIE.
NUAZA'S SO WONDERFUL ...!
DRAGONS ARE OUR PRIDE.
I KNOW!
I'LL ALWAYS, ALWAYS REMEMBER!

Chapter XXI
The Battle of Willingham Mausoleum

Chapter XXI
The Battle of Willingham Mausoleum

WELL, THIS IS IT.
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO CREEPY, THOUGH.
EVERYONE HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
?!

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ART
RAN
STORY
SHIKI MIZUCHI
CHARACTER DESIGN
KOHADA SHIMESABA

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

DRAGONAR ACADEMY VOLUME 5

art by **RAN** / story by **SHIKI MIZUCHI** / character design by **KOHADA SHIMESABA**

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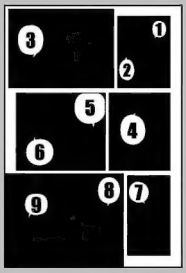
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Dragonar Academy
Cast of Characters

Ash Blake

A first-year Senios (upperclassman) at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy. He has the gift of riding any dragon. He's partnered with the young dragon Eco.

Eco

Despite her appearance, Eco is a dragon--and Ash's Steed! She's young and inexperienced, but was still able to craft an Ark for him.

Sylvia Lautreamont

The fourth princess of the Knightdom of Lautreamont. Known as the Ice Blue Princess, she is partnered to the Maestro dragon Lancelot.

Rebecca Randall

A third-year student at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy and president of the student council. She's the school's most gifted Dragonar, and rides the Maestro dragon Cuchulainn. She's called the Scarlet Empress.

Jessica Valentine

A first-year Senios at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy and a childhood friend of Rebecca's. Since discovering Ash's identity as the Silver Knight, she's been trying everything she can think of to get close enough to him to bear his offspring.

Navi

A mysterious entity who appears in the Dragon's Workshop, a shared space constructed by the Holy Dragons long ago. Navi helps Eco build an Ark, and has been appearing in Ash's dreams.

Lucca Sarlinen

A third-year Yunios at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy and a member of the warrior tribe of Ekblatt. She stopped attending classes when her dragon refused to let her ride him anymore.

Milgauss

A soldier from the Zepharos Empire, Milgauss attacked Ash during the Dragonar Festival of Aries. His true identity and motivations are shrouded in mystery.

Anya

A girl who works alongside Milgauss. As an operative for the Empire's intelligence service, she is currently undercover in the knightdom.

DRAGONAR ACADEMY

THE STORY SO FAR

Ansullivan Dragonar Academy: a school for boys and girls who've made pacts with dragons! Ash Blake is a student at the academy, but he's an embarrassment to the school--even though he has a Star Mark (the symbol of his pact), his dragon has yet to be born.

While Ash was participating in the Dragonar Festival of Aries, he was attacked and nearly killed by a man who seemed to be an imperial soldier. With Ash moments away from death, his Steed finally awakens. However, unlike all the other students' Steeds, Ash's dragon, who he names Eco, has the shape of a young human girl.

"YOU ARE NOT MY KEEPER! I AM YOUR KEEPER!!!"

SMILE

Ash and Eco try to settle into daily life together, but their efforts are thwarted when the town is attacked by a Necromancia! Ash, armored by the Ark Eco created for him and wielding the holy blade Aix-les-Bains, is able to counter the Necromancia's assault and protect Ansullivan!

FWOOH

Navi uses her power to bring Ash's sleeping mind to the Dragon's Workshop, where he learns the truth about why Gawain is rejecting Lucca--even though that rejection is going to cost Gawain his life! By the time Ash regains consciousness, Gawain has quietly left for the Willingham Mausoleum, where he's prepared to die. Ash and his friends head after him...only to find the mysterious Milgauss waiting for them there.

While at the training camp, Ash sees Lucca weeping in desperation over Gawain's ongoing rejection. Frustrated on her behalf, Ash does something unthinkable: he takes a swing at a Maestro dragon while unarmored, and is critically wounded as a result.

As Ash is finally growing accustomed to his new life at the school, he's chosen to attend the academy's invitational training camp, thanks to a special recommendation from the student council president. And when he discovers that Lucca, a younger student who's also been selected to attend the camp, can no longer ride her Steed, Ash draws on his ability to ride any dragon and challenges Gawain, Lucca's dragon!

星刻の竜騎士

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...
LEAVING ME BEHIND LIKE THAT?!
YOU WERE ASLEEP, SO ASH WAS BEING CONSIDERATE!
THERE'S NO NEED TO TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT!
BUT... BUT...!
ECO?! HOW DID YOU--?!
I SAW HER CLINGING TO HIS TAIL.
HUH?!
WELL, WHATEVER. SHE'S HERE NOW.
LET'S JUST START LOOKING.
SPLISH
HE'S TOTALLY HELPLESS WITHOUT ME AROUND!
OKAY, ECO...
I'M SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU BEHIND. ALL RIGHT?

WE NEED TO FIND DR. CORNWELL AND GAWAIN...
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE.
I CAN FEEL...
SOMETHING DARK SWIRLING AROUND DOWN HERE.
WAIT!
WHAT IS IT?
GLEAM
THERE ---!!
HUH ?!

GRRRRAAAAR
AND THAT SAME FEELING IS EVERYWHERE DOWN HERE!
WHEN WE FOUGHT THAT NECROMANCIA, I FELT SO MUCH DARKNESS...
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE?! ROTTING DRAGONS ...?!
THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE--!

GOOOOSH
E-EVERY-WHERE ...?
EVERYONE BACK!!
ECO!!
CAN YOU SUMMON AN ARK FOR ME?!
CRACKLE
.....
ECO ---?!

LANCELOT --!!
ECO...
NO, I CAN'T!
YOU'RE STILL INJURED, REMEMBER ?!
CRIMSON DRAGON BREATH!!!
VOOOOM

THAT'S TOO MUCH LIFE FOR DEAD DRAGONS...!
THEY'RE STILL COMING!
VOOOHHHM
BUT I'LL FINISH THEM WITH THIS!!
LET'S GO!
WE HAVE TO HUNT DOWN THE REAL MONSTER: WHOEVER DID THAT TO THEM!!
PRIN-CESS...
SEEING NOBLE DRAGONS REDUCED TO THAT MUST BE EVEN HARDER FOR HER THAN IT IS FOR ME.
TCH ...!
IMAGINE TURNING YOUNG DRAGONS INTO MON-STERS...

LUCCA, WHICH WAY TO GAWAIN?
I... I CAN'T TELL...
HE'S STILL BLOCKING THE ASTRAL FLOW BETWEEN US...
SOME-ONE'S THERE !!
COME ON OUT! WHO ARE YOU?!
FSSSH
!!
THAT'S --!!

ARE YOU THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE NECROMANCIA?!
.....
A MAN IN A MASK...? ARE YOU MILGAUSS?!
EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE HERE!
WHAT A SURPRISE.
THAT'S... A MAESTRO, ISN'T IT?
VERONICA DIDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO BE CHOSEN AS A BREEDER, BUT YOU...
.....?!
WH-WHAT? HOW DO YOU...?
WHAT THE HECK ...?
WHY DOES HE SEEM SO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...?
I'M TRULY IM-PRESSED.
HOW YOU'VE GROWN...

SYLVIE.
WHAT ?!
.....!!
UNH --!
GAHHH !!
DASH
OH!
HEY! DON'T JUST LET HIM GET AWAY!!
PRIN-CESS...?

I--! YES, RIGHT!
I GET A HORRIBLE, DANGEROUS FEELING FROM HIM!!
HURRY AND GO AFTER HIM!

GRRRRRR

IMPOS-SIBLE...
THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE HIM! THERE ISN'T!

ECO...
I THINK I HAVE TO ASK YOU FOR AN ARK ANYHOW.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN AWFUL LOT OF THEM.
IF A WHOLE GROUP CHARGES US ALL AT ONCE...

I SAID NO!
COULDN'T YOU MAKE ONE THAT WOULDN'T PUT TOO MUCH STRAIN ON ME?
HUH ...?
WELL...
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE HURT! YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE WEARING ONE!!
YOU ACT LIKE IT'S SO EASY...
C'MON, HAVE SOME CONFI-DENCE!
NO, I JUST HAVE FAITH IN YOU.
YOU TOLD ME THAT THE FIRST TIME WE MET...
BUT IF I MESS UP...
ALL PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE!
YOU'RE NO RUN-OF-THE-MILL DRAGON, RIGHT?
THEN YOU'LL ...!!

BESIDES, YOU'RE MY STEED!
BREEDERS ARE SUPPOSED TO TRUST THEIR STEEDS NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT?

ECO...?
AND I THINK IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE.

BUT WHILE I'M CREATING IT, I'LL... MY BODY'LL BE...
OH, FINE.

.....

.....
BUT YOU'LL BE OKAY IF I DO THIS, RIGHT?
I KNOW.

MAKE SURE YOU PROTECT ME, OKAY...?
TWINGE
.....
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
TRY TO KEEP YOUR SEAT!
AC- CORDING TO THE MAP...
WE'VE REACHED THE CENTER.
INDEED.
AND SOON IT WILL BE YOUR GRAVE.

WE MEET AGAIN, BOY.
YOU ---!
MILGAUSS !!
WHY DID YOU CALL ME "SYLVIE" BACK THERE?!

I DON'T RECALL DOING ANY SUCH THING.
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SCION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!
HE'S DIFFERENT AGAIN!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM?

ズウ
STALK
RAISE
YOU SHOULD REALLY...
BE MORE FOCUSED ON YOUR OWN SAFETY.

THE MAIN FORCE IS HEADING ELSEWHERE AS WE SPEAK.
BUT THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF MY CREATIONS.

SO DID YOU DO THIS TO THESE POOR DRAGONS?!
I DID.

THE DYING CRIES OF YOUR CLASS-MATES?
A- ARE YOU SAYING...

CAN'T YOU HEAR THEM, BOY?

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SENT THEM TO THE TRAINING CAMP?!
WHEN FACED WITH OVER THREE HUNDRED OF THESE FOES...
HOW LONG DO YOU IMAGINE YOUR COMRADES WILL SURVIVE?

Y-YOU!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
RUMBLE
?!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ALL THAT ASIDE...
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT HAVING ONLY THESE NINE YOUNG DRAGONS BATTLE A MAESTRO.
SO I'LL PLAY MY TRUMP CARD TOO!

IS...
IS THAT...A MAESTRO ?!

WHAT ?!
DID HE SAY "NUAZA" ...?!
NOT JUST ANY MAESTRO.
ITS NAME IS NUAZA!!

SURELY YOU'VE HEARD THE STORIES.
ROOOOOOOOAR
THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF A MASTER AND THE DRAGON WHO LOVED HER...
JU...
NNNH!
TCH!
IT'S... OVERPOW-ERING!!
JULIUS ...?

HE REMINDED ME SO STRONGLY OF...
MY BROTHER'S FACE...AND HIS KIND VOICE...
BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM!!
YOU'RE NOTHING AT ALL LIKE HIM!!
NEVER FORGET...
THAT DRAGON IS OUR SYMBOL.

KVOOOOM
WOULD NEVER SHAME THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD SO!!
MY BIG BROTHER...
OH ...?
BUBBLE BUBBLE

MILGAUSS!
IN THE NAME OF THE KNIGHTDOM OF LAUTREA-MONT...
I WILL LAY THE SPIRIT OF NUAZA TO REST!!!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

Chapter XXII
An Impenetrable Shield

WHOSE NAME IS GAE BULG!!
FLARE
COME HITHER, MAGIC SPEAR THAT EVER FLIES TRUE!
FWOOOOOOM

YEAH!
HAVE FAITH IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH!!
HOLD YOUR GROUND!
HI-YAH!
YOU'VE ALL GROWN SO MUCH STRONGER IN THESE PAST FIVE DAYS!
REBECCA REALLY IS...
RE-MARKABLE, ISN'T SHE?
WE WON'T LET YOU DO THIS, MONSTER!
WE'LL HOLD HERE! GO SUPPORT THE WEST SIDE!!
GET BACK!

AND THEY'RE COMING FROM THE MAUSOLEUM...! WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED, ASH?!
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM...
DOES MY FACE REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE ELSE?
HUH? YOUR BIG BROTHER ...?
HEH HEH! WHAT AN AMUSING THOUGHT.
MAYBE SO, BUT I WAS A FOOL...
TO SPARE EVEN A FLICKER OF EMOTION FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!
WHAT'S GOING ON, PRINCESS?!

GET DOWN, ALL OF YOU.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!!
GRASP
RUMBLE RUMBLE
KKKRAAA!
URK --!
GEEROWL
DAMMIT, THIS ISN'T WORKING !!
EEEEEEK!
!!

LUCCA !!
Aaah!
NO! STOP --!
YANK
DON'T TOUCH ME THERE ...!
H-HEY!
RIP
THIS IS--!
RIP
ACK!
UNNNH!

N-NO...!
WHY, YOU --!!
PRIN-CESS!
WRAP
GAH!
ECOOOOOOO!!

I MANAGED TO HOLD ON THIS LONG, BUT..
AWW, DAMMIT...
UNN-NGH ...!
SPASM
I PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD. MY WOUNDS OPENED BACK UP!
SEEP...

I HURT ALL OVER, AND MY BODY'S GOING NUMB!
I CAN'T... MAKE MYSELF MOVE ...!!!

GAWAIN ....!
LUCCA...
PRINCESS ...!!
ECO!!!
NNNAAAAAH!!
JUMP

ECO!
SUCH RECKLESS COURAGE...
FROM ONE SO BADLY INJURED BY A DRAGON.
THAT'S NOT HAPPENING TO US!
I'M STAYING WITH MY STEED!!
NUAZA AND THAT YOUNG GIRL...
LUCCA AND GAWAIN...
FATE'S BEEN FORCING THEM ALL APART...

SO YOU WISH TO DIE WITH YOUR STEED, DO YOU?
YOU'RE DEAD WRONG!!
GRAAAAAR!
WHAT A TRAGIC SENSE OF HONOR.
DON'T YOU DARE DISMISS HER...
MIL-GAUSS !!
I HAVE FAITH IN HER!
IN MY STEED!!

NNGH ...!
WHAT IN THE --?!
GLOOOW
IN ECO!!
FLASH

UUHH...
OOOHHHHH...
UNWO...

AVALON ...!!
S-SO...
OF QUELLING EVEN A NECRO-MANCIA, IS IT?!
THAT LIGHT IS CAPABLE...
WE'RE SAVED!!
IS ECO SAFE TOO?!
ASH ...?!
LUNGE
IMPRES-SIVE, BOTH OF YOU.
BUT YOUR LIGHT DWINDLES, GIRL.

ECO --!
MM-HMM.

REACH

ES...
KIIIIIIIIN
NOLOP
!!!

GUIN
PSSSSSSSH
GROWING !!!
THAT'S... THE LIGHT OF AN ARK!
BUT SHE SPOKE ONLY THE FINAL WORD OF HER SPELL ...!!
WHICH MEANS SHE CHANTED THE REST WHILE STILL IN THE DRAGON'S WORKSHOP!
THESE TWO ARE UNQUESTIONABLY...

ARK EQUIP...
COMPLETE.
THE ARMOR'S THICK, BUT IT'S SO LIGHT, TOO!
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW!! THANKS A BUNCH, ECO!!
HMPH!
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT... I WASN'T ABLE TO CREATE IT ENTIRELY ON MY OWN.
I GAVE HER A HAND.
NAVI?!
WITH ONE CONDI-TION!
ONE DAY, SHE'LL HAVE TO PRESENT YOU WITH AN ORIGINAL ARK!
H-HEY!! HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW STUFF LIKE THAT!!

ARK EQUIP...
COMPLETE.

IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW!! THANKS A BUNCH, ECO!!
THE ARMOR'S THICK, BUT IT'S SO LIGHT, TOO!
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ONE DAY, SHE'LL HAVE TO PRESENT YOU WITH AN ORIGINAL ARK!
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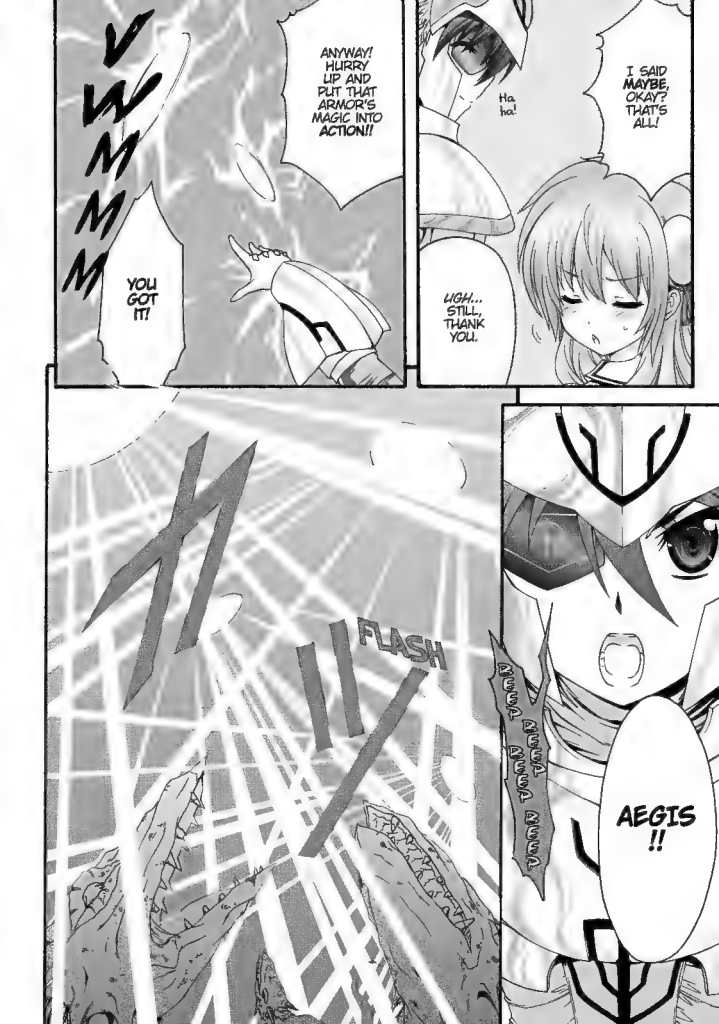
I SAID MAYBE, OKAY? THAT'S ALL!
Ha ha!
UGH... STILL, THANK YOU.
ANYWAY! HURRY UP AND PUT THAT ARMOR'S MAGIC INTO ACTION!!
YOU GOT IT!
AEGIS !!
AWAY AWAY AWAY AWAY
FLASH

TH-THEY'RE TURNING TO STONE!
THAT'S SOME SOPHISTI-CATED MAGIC...!!
GRUNNN!
DA... GOO-OHH...
NINE STATUES IN ONE GO, HM?
TURN
THEN I SUPPOSE THAT'S MY CUE TO LEAVE.
PRIN-CESS!!
I'VE GOT NUAZA COV-ERED!
YOU GO AFTER HIM!!
ON IT!
LEAP
NUAZA'S ALL YOURS!

I'VE LEVELED UP OVER THE PAST FIVE DAYS TOO!!
BUT HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!
..HE REALLY IS FULL OF SURPRISES.
HE'S GOTTEN EVEN STRONGER...!
VSSSH
COME AT ME, NUAZA!!
AND YOU GET A FIRSTHAND LOOK!

MILGAUSS !!
LEAP
WHEN WE FIRST MET...
I WASN'T ABLE TO FIGHT BACK AT ALL!
BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED!!
WHAM
BECAUSE I HAVE ECO!!

H-HOW --?!
I'M ARMORED WITH AN ARK, AND HE STILL BLOCKED THE BLOW WITH ONE HAND?!
NO MATCH FOR ME!
BUT YOU'RE STILL...
CLENCH
HEH!
IT'S TRUE, YOU'VE GROWN.

HEH!
CLENCH
IT'S TRUE, YOU'VE GROWN.
BUT YOU'RE STILL...

H-
HOW
--?!
NO
MATCH
FOR
ME!
I'M ARMORED
WITH AN ARK,
AND HE STILL
BLOCKED THE
BLOW WITH
ONE HAND?!

HEH HEH!
AND AS FOR YOU, IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF AVALON...I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR POWER GLADLY.
ASH!!
"AVALON"?! WHAT ---?!
THAT'S THE WORD ECO HEARD IN HER DREAM!
NNGH!
BLOCK
GRAB

SLAM
SKID
GAACK --!
HOW THE HELL CAN HE HIT ME THAT HARD RIGHT THROUGH THE ARK?!
N-NO WAY!
WHAT KIND OF PERSON CAN DO THAT?!
I MAY ACKNOWL-EDGE HER POWER, BOY...

PTOO!
BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
Y'KNOW, MAYBE THAT'S TRUE.
I AM THE SCHOOL'S PROBLEM CHILD, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A POOR IMITATION.
BUT ECO AND I CONNECT-ED...
SO WHATEVER ELSE I AM, I'M HER BREEDER, TOO!!!

TELL ME WHAT THIS "AVALON" THING IS!
AND NOW, YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS!
HA!
BY ALL MEANS-- IF YOU CAN MAKE ME!
HAAAAH?!!

CLASH

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

CLAAANG
SKIIISH
HUFF...
HUFF...
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOY?

IS THAT ALL YOUR "AEGIS" IS CAPABLE OF?
Chapter XXII
The Maestro that Dances in the Night Sky

AH, WELL. EVEN IF YOU HAD IT TO USE...
I'D SIMPLY SHUT IT DOWN YET AGAIN.
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'M KINDA OUT OF MAGIC RIGHT NOW.
HUFF
HUFF..
OH?
WOBBLE
RIGHT NOW, ALL I CAN THINK IS HOW MUCH I WANT TO SMASH THAT MASK OF YOURS TO SMITHEREENS.
HEH...
IS THERE SOME REASON YOU'VE GOTTA HIDE THEM NOW?
BOY...
THE MASK USED TO LEAVE YOUR EYES EXPOSED, DIDN'T IT?
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT...

IS IT THE PRINCESS ...?
I HAVE NO NEED TO HIDE MY FACE.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE ENERGY TO SPARE FOR BACKTALK? SAVE IT FOR YOUR MAGIC.
VGHP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
.....
WAVER
THAT'S ENOUGH CHATTER.
RRROOAR

ASH ...!!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO...?
FAREWELL, BOY!
LIFT
SLASH
THIS SUCKS, BUT I REALLY AM JUST ABOUT OUT OF MAGIC.
THINK! IS THERE ANY WAY LEFT FOR ME TO FIGHT BACK...?
ASH --!!!

RATTLE
RATTLE
HMPH!
OVER HERE, MILGALISS!!
DID YOU ACTUALLY THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?!!
LEAP

THERE'S ONE PIECE LEFT--!
WHAT --?!
THIS IS...
MY FINAL AEGIS!!

FLASH
!!
CRNK...
HUH ?!
LUNGE
NOW'S MY CHANCE --!!
LEAP
OH, PLEASE.

CRACK
THIS HAND IS ARTIFI-CIAL.
A GIFT OF MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY!
SNAP
THAT I NEED ONLY ONE HAND AND MY SWORD TO CUT YOU DOWN!
AND WITHOUT YOUR ARK, YOU'LL SEE...

SO SURE ABOUT THAT!
I WOULDN'T BE...
WHAT ?!
RRRSSSH
JUST HIS GAUNTLET ---?!

IF ONE PUNCH DOESN'T DO IT, I'LL JUST KEEP HITTING!!
THAT'S MY ANSWER !!!

SKID
KRINNNK
HMPH.
YOU WERE STILL HUNG UP ON THAT VERY FIRST BLOW I BLOCKED, HM?
SO OF COURSE EVEN I WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN IT COMING...
FIZZLE
STAGGER
HEH HEH...
I PUNCHED... A DRAGON... WITH THAT FIST, YOU KNOW...
OH NO! HE REALLY IS OUT OF MAGIC NOW!!
BUT THAT MAN STILL HAS POWER TO SPARE...!!

THUD
THIS ENDS HERE, MILGALISS !!!
FOURTH PRINCESS.
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEED TO REVALUATE YOU...
.....

ANSWER WISELY, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE STRUCK DOWN RIGHT HERE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRET FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
FWOOOOSH
NUDGE

FAREWELL, CHILDREN.
I'LL RETREAT FOR TODAY.
SPRING
FLUTTER
WHA ?!
WHAT IS HE --?!
NO.
A FALL LIKE THAT WOULDN'T KILL HIM.
BUT WOW, PRIN-CESS!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB TAKING DOWN THAT MAESTRO NECROMANCIA!

THAT'S ENOUGH NOW, LANCELOT.
!!
FWWMP

TO BE HONEST, I WAS PREPARED FOR DEFEAT BACK THERE.
BUT THEN, OUT OF THE VERY DEPTHS OF THE CAVE...

GUUUUUU...
LAND
LANCELOT'S ALREADY GIVEN ALL HE CAN TODAY. THAT BASTARD DID US A FAVOR BY WITHDRAWING.

AND PLAIN AS DAY, I SAW IT!

A GUST OF FROZEN BREATH ROSE UP AND SAVED ME.

A DRAGON ENCLOSED IN PURE ICE MAGIC, GLEAMING BLUE IN THE DARKNESS...!
AN IMAGE WORTHY OF THE MAESTRO NUAZA!
.....
LOOK! OVER THERE!!
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS TRULY NUAZA...
BUT I FEEL LIKE HIS SOUL IS STILL WANDERING THE MAUSOLEUM...
BROKEN-HEARTED BY THE TRAGEDY THAT UNFOLDED THERE.

HOW HORRIBLE ...!
I KNOW, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT TO HELP.
NOT EVEN REBECCA AND THE OTHERS CAN HOLD UP AGAINST THAT ONSLAUGHT.
THE TRAINING CAMP ---!!!
!
STEP
LUCCA ...?

AND ECO AND ASH...
YOU ALL GAVE EVERYTHING YOU HAD.
LANCELOT...
AND SYLVIA...

OUT OF EVERYONE HERE...
IT'S CLEAR WHO DIDN'T GET UP AND TRY.
BUT, LUCCA...
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE...
IT WAS ALL NOTHING BUT AN EXCUSE.
JUST NOW, IT WAS LIKE I COULD FEEL...
GAWAIN GETTING ANGRY AT ME...
AND DEMANDING TO KNOW WHAT THE HECK I'VE BEEN THINKING.

HEY, LUCCA...
THIS IS JUST A THOUGHT, BUT...
!
CLASP
DO YOU THINK IT WAS REALLY NUAZA...
WHO SAVED YOU AND THE PRINCESS?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
BACK WHEN HE ATTACKED ME, HIS BREATH WAS A BLAST OF ICE.
GAWAIN...
COME WITH ME, ASH.

HUH ?!
FLOAT

YOU HELPED US REGAIN WHAT I LOST.
NOW GAWAIN AND I HAVE THE COURAGE TO HOLD OUR HEADS UP HIGH AGAIN.

ASH !!!
LUCCA!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

I'M SO SORRY, GAWAIN.
I WON'T BE... AFRAID OF YOU ANYMORE!
NOW IT'S MY TURN...
TO PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE!
IS... IS THAT...
FWWWM
THE ASTRAL --?!
THE COURAGE TO FACE MY STEED AGAIN...?!
YOU AT LEAST KNOW THAT MUCH, DON'T YOU?
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW. I WON'T LET YOU DIE!

BREATHE DEEP, GAWAIN!
THE ASTRAL-- NO!
BREATHE ME IN!!!
YOU'RE MY STEED!!!
BOOOO!!
BE-CAUSE...
GRIT
NO MATTER WHAT...

GAWAIN
!!!

GAWAIN
!!!

DAMN...
I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY ARK ANYMORE.
ドオオ
VOOOOOM
FSSSS...
YOU ALL FOUGHT WONDERFULLY, EVERYONE!
BUT WE'RE UP AGAINST UNKILLABLE BEASTS, AND WHILE WE'VE HELD OUR GROUND SO FAR, ANOTHER WAVE OF THEM IS ARRIVING.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO LOSE THIS PLACE, STEEPED IN SO MUCH TRADITION...
CLENCH

REBEC-CA...
SO LISTEN UP, EVERY-BODY!!
I AM NOW ORDERING OUR WITH-DRAWAL FROM--
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
IN THE SKY ...!
.....!

WHAT... INCREDIBLE WIND PRESSURE ...!
I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO BE RIPPED TO SHREDS.
HOOOO
LUCCA SAID SHE WAS GONNA TRY TO PERFORM THE DRAGON DANCE...
BUT IS THIS REALLY IT...?
HANG ON TIGHT!
GYAAAAAH!
SHRUUFF
IT'S LIKE SHE'S PAINTING SOMETHING RIGHT ACROSS THE SKY.
BUT THERE'S CLEARLY A PATTERN TO IT.
WE'RE MOVING SO UNBELIEVABLY FAST...
WHAT FLYING!

THE CLOUDS ARE PARTING!
THIS IS---!
SHE'S CUTTING THROUGH THE WIND...
FLYING WITH IT...
SOARING LIKE PART OF IT!
I FEEL LIKE I'M FINALLY SEEING...
THE REAL LUCCA, IN ALL HER GLORY...!!
IT'S COMPLETE NOW.
THE FIRST ELEMENT OF THE DRAGON DANCE.

RROOOOOAR
CRUMBLE
MY STRENGTH COMING BACK!!
I-I'M STARTING TO FEEL...
THE AMBROSIA OF PURI-FICATION!

RROOOOOAR
CRUMBLE
THE AMBROSIA OF PURI-FICATION!
I-I'M STARTING TO FEEL...
MY STRENGTH COMING BACK!!

IF THEY'RE FLYING SO BEAUTIFULLY...
LUCCA...!
AND AT THIS MOMENT, I CAN ACTUALLY SEE...
SHE AND GAWAIN MUST'VE FINALLY BEEN REUNITED.
ELFIN DANCERS.
WHY THE DRAGONARS OF EKBLATT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CALLED...
HA HA!
WELL, IT'S UNLIKELY, BUT...
I COULD ALMOST IMAGINE...
TURN
The Dragon of Willingham
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE DRAGON OF WILLING-HAM...
WAS SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY AN EKBLATTIAN, TOO.

THAT THE GIRL AND HER DRAGON FROM THAT PICTURE BOOK...
HAVE BEEN REINCARNATED AND FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND ARE FINALLY DANCING TOGETHER IN THE SKY, RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.
SO...

AND THAT WE LOCATED ANGELA, BUT...
IT'S GREAT THAT WE ANNIHILATED THE NECROMANCIA...
HA HA...
WHY THE HECK HAVE YOU TWO BEEN INSEPARABLE FOR THREE DAYS NOW?!
WHEN YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO SEE ANYONE? NOT EVEN ME?
DO... DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS...
WHAT SHE SAID!!
THAT'S ALL IT IS, ECO!!
BECAUSE WE'RE INJURED.

NOW, OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
GAPE
AAA-AHH...
WHY, YOU!
LUNGE
THAT'S IT! GET AWAY!!
DODG-ING...
SIDLE
DRAG-ONS...
EEEE...!
TOPPLE
HAA-AA...
NIP
IS MY SPECIALTY!
THE TRICK IS TO BITE VERY GENTLY.
I SEE!

OF COURSE. ANYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN IT.
HEY... DO YOU THINK I COULD PULL THAT OFF TOO?
HIIY-YAAH ~!!
BITE
W-WAIT A MINUTE...
NO...
N-NOT YOU ...!
HAA-HH...
TWITCH TWITCH
NNN-NHH...

YOU... DORK...
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO BE MEAN TO HER OR ANYTHING.
AND THAT IS TO ACCEPT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING ABOUT MY STEED WITH COURAGE!
IT'S JUST THAT I LEARNED SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT FROM LUCCA AND EVERYONE ELSE.
NOT... MY HORNS ...!
NO...

星刻の竜騎士

ASH...
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR...
OF COMING TO SEE MY FATHER WITH ME?
UM... WHAT?

Chapter XXIV
The Secret Letter

LA TENU, THE STUDENT DINING HALL.
La Tenu
BOOM
CONGRATS ON BEING RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, ASH!!
THANKS, EVERYONE.
I MEAN, TAKE A LOOK AROUND!
Oof
AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY WAY YOU OUTDID YOURSELF THIS TIME!
BUT IT TURNS OUT I UNDERESTIMATED YOU!
YOU'RE REALLY UNBELIEVABLE. I THOUGHT I WAS USED TO YOUR RECKLESSNESS...

THE ICE BLUE PRINCESS, SYLVIA, AND...
JESSICA, THE HOTTEST TROUBLEMAKER AT SCHOOL!!
HERE YOU'VE GOT YOUR LITTLE ECO, A.K.A. THE SCHOOL'S ADORABLE MASCOT...
AND REBECCA, OUR VERY OWN SCARLET EMPRESS!
I WANTED TO SAY IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT I'M BACK ON TRACK.
GAWAIN AND I ARE BOTH DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE.
HOW'D YOU GET A HAREM ?!
AND NOW, YOU'VE GOT THE PRODIGY LUCCA SARLINEN FOLLOWING YOU AROUND!!
WHY YOU?! HOW'D YOU SWING THIS?!
Son of a--!!
UM, ASH...?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOUR DRAGON DANCE IS THE ONLY REASON WE GOT OUT OF THAT SITUATION IN ONE PIECE.
ER... SO...
IF YOU FEEL UP TO IT...
I WAS WONDERING WHETHER...
YOU MIGHT LIKE TO VISIT MY PEOPLE'S HOMELAND OVER SUMMER BREAK--
EEEEE! ASH...!! I'M SO HAPPY!!!
POUNCE
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT! WE'LL FINALLY BECOME ONE--!!
LIH, JESSI-CA...
SHOVE
MGGHHH_
Y-YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA...
MY BODY HAS JUST BEEN YEARNING FOR YOU EVERY NIGHT SINCE WE GOT BACK!!

I'M SOOOO SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS! DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
S-SILENCE! I SIMPLY HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR SUCH BRAZENNESS!!
DON'T JUST SLIP THINGS LIKE THAT INTO CONVERSATION AND HOPE NO ONE'LL NOTICE!!
JESSICA!!

RE-BECCA...
THE COUNCIL CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO WORK YOU TO THE BONE AGAIN.
HEH! TAKE SOME TIME TO RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELF.
A-ASH...
um...
HEY! NO FAIR!!
COME WITH ME, ASH!!

AWW, CRUD. THIS AIN'T NO FUN.
CHATTER CHATTER
.....
POUT
HMM ...?
SNIFF
HMPH!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ECO?
YOU'RE ODDLY QUIET
N-NOTHING! THE REAL QUESTION IS...
RAWR!
IS ANYONE GOING TO CARVE THIS BIRD UP SOON?!
BECAUSE IF NOT, I'M GONNA EAT IT WHOLE! DRAGON-STYLE!!

NOW, NOW!
WE HAVE TO OFFER PRAYERS TO SAINT ROSA MARIA FIRST!
OH, FINE.
IF WE HAVE TO, I CAN WAIT.
I CAN'T STOP WONDERING...

WHAT MILGAUSS MEANT WHEN HE CALLED ECO THE "IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF AVALON."
I DIDN'T MANAGE TO GET ANY MORE INFO OUT OF HIM.
DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ALL THE STRANGE THINGS THAT HAPPEN AROUND HER?
IF I LEARN MORE, I WONDER IF WE'LL FINALLY FIGURE OUT WHY ECO WAS BORN WITH A GIRL'S BODY INSTEAD OF A DRAGON'S...?

ALL RIGHT! TIME TO EAT!!
MMMM~!! ♡
OHH, THIS IS SO AMAZING! SCRUMPTIOUS~!! ♪
BA-BOOOM
?!
EEEP!!
BUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS SEEING HER SMILE.
♡
IF I CAN KEEP HER HAPPY, I DON'T EVEN CARE IF I GET HURT LIKE THAT AGAIN.

WHAT WAS THAT?!
KA-CHAK
EXCUSE ME!
I AM PALACE POSTAL COURIER FIRST CLASS ORLETTA BLANC, AT YOUR SERVICE!!
I COME BEFORE YOU THIS DAY TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM THE PALADIN TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS SYLVIA!!
A LETTER FROM MY FATHER?!
?

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE BEEN HOME!
THAT SAID...
I DON'T RECALL SAYING YOU COULD SLEEP IN THE BED TONIGHT.
AW, COME ON! I'M STILL RECOVERING! BE NICE!
AND MAYBE PUT ON SOME CLOTHES...
HMPH!
KNOCK KNOCK
HM?
ASH.
CLACK
A LETTER JUST CAME FOR YOU.

IT'S A PRETTY FANCY ENVELOPE, HUH?
HM? THE SENDER DIDN'T EVEN WRITE THEIR NAME.
THANKS, MAX.
I WONDER WHO IT'S FROM?
"I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE COURTYARD FOUNTAIN AT NOON TOMORROW."
I'll be waiting for you at the courtyard fountain at noon tomorrow.
WAIT, IS THAT THE WHOLE THING?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S INSIDE?
Hey, don't lean on my head.
Quiet, you.
HANG ON, LET ME SEE... WHAT IS THIS?
WHO WOULD SEND THIS? WHY?
And there's no name on it anywhere!
OH, PLEASE! IT'S OBVIOUS!!
SOMEONE'S CHALLENGING YOU!!

I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
REALLY WRONG...
Heh heh!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THAT LETTER WAS CLEARLY SENT BY SOMEONE WHO ENVIES HOW MY SLAVE AND I PERFORMED IN COMBAT!!
WHAT'S WITH THE "SLAVE" STUFF?!
AHHH... AN OCCASIONAL GESTURE LIKE THIS IS A WONDERFUL THING! ♡
I STILL DOUBT IT, ECO.
ANYWAY, I CAN THINK OF ALL KINDS OF LETTERS I'D RATHER BE SENT...
KICK
OWW!
HER FOOT?!
.....
POUT...
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP LOOKING SO DEPRESSED ABOUT IT?!
LETTERS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A DEATHLY DULL MEANS OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION! ONLY HUMANS WOULD COME UP WITH THEM!

YOU'RE MY STEED! ALL YOU EVER HAVE TO DO IS...
PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF MY MOUTH!!
UNDERSTAND?
OH, COME ON! YOU'RE MY STEED!!
AND PLEASE DON'T SIT LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE NAKED?!

BUT IF IT'S A CHALLENGE, YOU'LL NEED ME RIGHT THERE!
UH... THAT'S OKAY. I CAN GO ALONE.
AND BESIDES ...
I'LL GO WITH YOU TOMORROW!
I KNOW!
CREAK
UGH...
HUMANS ARE SUCH A PAIN...!
OKAY, FINE. I WON'T STOP YOU.
SHEESH.
GAH! WHY IS MY STEED BOSSING ME AROUND?
WHILE YOU WERE HOSPITALIZED, YOU NEGLECTED ME SHAME-FULLY!
SO YOU NEED TO TAKE EXTRA GOOD CARE OF ME NOW TO MAKE UP FOR IT!
THAT'S AN ORDER!!
IT FINALLY FEELS LIKE WE'RE WELL AND TRULY HOME.
BUT BEING WITH HER LIKE THIS...
Hee hee! I did it!

I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF A GIRL WROTE IT.
BUT IT SEEMS... DELICATE AND ELEGANT, TOO!
SEEMS SO FORMAL AND EARNEST AT FIRST GLANCE.
SOMETHING ABOUT THE LETTER'S TONE AND THE STYLE OF THE SCRIPT...
Heeey!!
Pay attention to me, dog!!
I guess delicacy doesn't prove that one way or the other.
I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE WAITING AROUND.
WELL, IT'S ALMOST TIME, BUT...

MAYBE IT'S JUST SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A PRANK...?
HOW DARE THEY BE LATE!
A CHALLENGER SHOULD BE MORE RESPONSIBLE!!
Heee~yah!
LIKE I SAID, I DON'T THINK IT'S A CHALLENGE.
PROBABLY
AH!
DART
HEY, WAIT! ARE YOU THE PERSON WHO WROTE ME THAT LETTER?!
HMM ...?
SOMEONE'S WATCHING US?
!!
TWITCH

WHY'RE YOU SKULKING AROUND? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.
C-COUGH.
W-WELL, ACTUALLY... IT WAS ME.
I WROTE THAT LETTER.
HUH? PRINCESS?!

THE... THE LETTER WAS BECAUSE...
UM... SEE--
HUH?! FIGHT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD?!
HUH?!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE! BUT I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO FIGHT YOU!!
N... NOTHING.
IT'S JUST...
SHEEPISH
SHEEPISH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

C-COME TO ME...
LANCELOT !!!
UHH...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
FWOOOOM
HUH ?!
I-I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
PRINCESS ?!!

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, HUH?!
DARN IT, LANCELOT! YOU GET BACK HERE!!
WAIT! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
.....?!
FLAP
?!
PIVOT
LANCELOT ?!
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
GAH... SNIFFLE_
LANCELOT, YOU BIG DUMMY!
IT HAPPENED AGAIN!
Good boy.
LANCELOT'S ACTING LIKE HE SERVES ECO OR SOMETHING ...?

PRIN-CESS...
WILL YOU PLEASE TALK TO ME?
IF SOME-THING'S BOTHERING YOU, I'M HAPPY TO LISTEN.
TURN
FLINCH
OH, FINE!
I WON'T RUN ANYMORE! I'M A PRIN-CESS, AND I'M GOING TO ACT LIKE ONE!!
ASH!
JERKS UPRIGHT
LISTEN CLOSELY!
W... WI...
WILL YOU...

HEY, EVERYBODY !!!
YOUR FATHER ...?
HUH?
UM... WHAT?
.....!!
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF COMING TO SEE MY FATHER WITH ME?!!
YEEAAH!
HUH?
THE PRINCESS JUST PROPOSED TO ASH!!!
SHE JUST PROPOSED !!!

WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF COMING TO SEE MY FATHER WITH ME?!!
.....!!
EAH!
HUH?
SHE JUST PROPOSED !!!

HEY, EVERYBODY !!!
HUH?
UM... WHAT?
YOUR FATHER ...?
THE PRINCESS JUST PROPOSED TO ASH!!!

N-N-NO, NO!!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT AT ALL!!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
SERIOUSLY? WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN A TROUBLEMAKER LIKE HIM?
WHIT-WOO~! ♪
HA! I KNEW THEY HAD SOMETHING GOING ON!
EEEE! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THAT SERIOUS!
GIVEN HOW WE'RE POSITIONED, I GUESS I CAN SEE WHY THEY'RE JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS...
IMAGE OF A FORMAL PROPOSAL BY A DRAGONAR.
BLUSH
FRET
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
IT'S... NOT LIKE THAT...
AND... AND BESIDES...
UM...
I DECIDED WHEN I WAS LITTLE THAT MY FUTURE FIANCÉ WOULD HAVE TO PROPOSE TO ME... SO...

SQUEE! WOW!
All that happened it...
YAY! EEE!
Would you listen to me?!
.....
UM, GUYS?!
HELLO?
THIS IS ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING!
HA HA! YOU CAN'T PUT ON A SHOW LIKE THIS AND THEN TRY TO CHANGE THE STORY!
OOOOH, A LOVE LETTER, HUH~?!
ISN'T THAT SPECIAL!
AND THEN THIS LETTER ~!

THWACK
ASH...
LEAP
OW!
HEY! PRINCESS ~!
HUH?
PLEASE READ IT. IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
THAT'S THE LETTER MY FATHER SENT ME.

HI, THERE! I'M WITH THE NEWSPAPER CLUB! CAN WE GET A STATEMENT, PLEASE?!
RIGHT, SO LIKE I...!
DART
PRINCESS!
ZOOOM
WAIT UP!!
HMM?
SERI-OUSLY...
ALL OF YOU...
EEEP ...!!
A DRAGON?!
GRRRRRR
IF YOU DON'T QUIT THIS NONSENSE RIGHT NOW ...!
CRAWLING IN ONE BY ONE...

I SWEAR I'LL TRAMPLE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!!!
GAAAAAAH!
STOP IT, ECO...!!
AT ANY RATE...
AT LEAST WE FINALLY MANAGED TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDER-STANDING.
BUT WOW, THAT SURE GOT OUT OF HAND FAST!
HMPH! PROPOSAL, PRO-SHMOSAL!
I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME HOW IT SECRETLY THRILLED YOU!
NAH, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
TWO TOTALLY SEPARATE THINGS.
ANYWAY, THIS IS THE PRINCESS, REMEMBER?
.....

UNFOLD
THE KING.
AND THAT MEANS HER FATHER IS...
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE'S THE PRINCESS.
LET'S SEE, NOW. THE PRINCESS IS GOING TO BE ATTENDING THE ELYSIUM--THE CONTINENTAL COUNCIL.
IT'S A CONFERENCE WHERE LEADERS FROM ALL KINDS OF NATIONS GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE CONTINENT'S FUTURE.
"WHEN YOU RETURN HOME...
"HAVE ASH BLAKE AND THE YOUNG DRAGON ECO ACCOMPANY YOU."

THE KNIGHTDOM OF LAUTREAMONT. THE CAPITAL, FONTAINE.
THE KING OF THE KNIGHTDOM, PALADIN OSWALD.
SHE MAY OFFICIALLY BE TOO YOUNG TO ATTEND THE ELYSIUM...
BUT IF YOU THINK SHE SHOULD, VERONICA, THEN ATTEND SHE SHALL.

MAKE HASTE TO ATTEND US...
NOW, THEN!
MY DAUGHTER SYLVIA...
AND ASH BLAKE, HERO OF ANSULLIVAN!!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

ゴーン
GOOOONG
ゴーン
GOOOONG
ゴーン
GOOOONG
FWOOM
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE TAKING OFF.
HOLD ON TIGHT.
YEAH...
.....

ACCOMPANYING THE PRINCESS AS SHE'S EN ROUTE TO THE ELYSIUM, AND HAVING AN AUDIENCE WITH THE PALADIN HIMSELF...?
HE'S GETTING MORE TROUBLE-SOME ALL THE TIME.
MILGAUSS HAS AL-READY SET OFF FOR FONTAINE, THE CAPITAL CITY.
I HAVE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MEET HIM THERE.
SO ASH BLAKE AND HIS DRAGON...
ARE ON THEIR WAY.
BUT THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT MILGAUSS RECENTLY.
HE SEEMS OVERLY FIXATED ON THAT STRANGE DRAGON, ECO.
HE USED TO BE SO MUCH MORE LEVEL-HEADED ABOUT HIS DUTIES.
TSU-RUH
ANYAAAA!♡

YOU'RE HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY AGAIN!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! ♡
UM ...!
BE A DEAR AND TRY ON THIS BRAND-NEW SERVER UNIFORM, WON'T YOU?!
ALL THE STUDENTS ARE FINISHING UP THEIR END-OF-TERM EXAMS...
SQUISH
AND THEY DESERVE A NICE REWARD, DON'T YOU THINK? ♡
MI... MI...
MILGAUSS --!!
Noooo! Help me!
OH! ASH!
LOOK AT THAT!!

Chapter XXV
Fontaine, the Knightdom's Capital
WHAT A GIGANTIC CITY!!
SO MANY BUILDINGS ADORNED WITH DRAGONS...
AND SUCH DIVERSE ARCHITECTURE...! THE SCALE OF THIS PLACE IS SO FAR BEYOND ANSULLIVAN!
HUH? WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DRAGONARS EVERYWHERE?
WITH THE ELYSIUM NEARING, SECURITY WILL HAVE BEEN RAMPED UP.
BRACE YOUR-SELVES. WE'RE LANDING NOW.
WHY DO YOU THINK WE WERE SUMMONED AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA.
UH, PRINCESS?

Chapter XXV
Fontaine, the Knightdom's Capital
WHAT A GIGANTIC CITY!!

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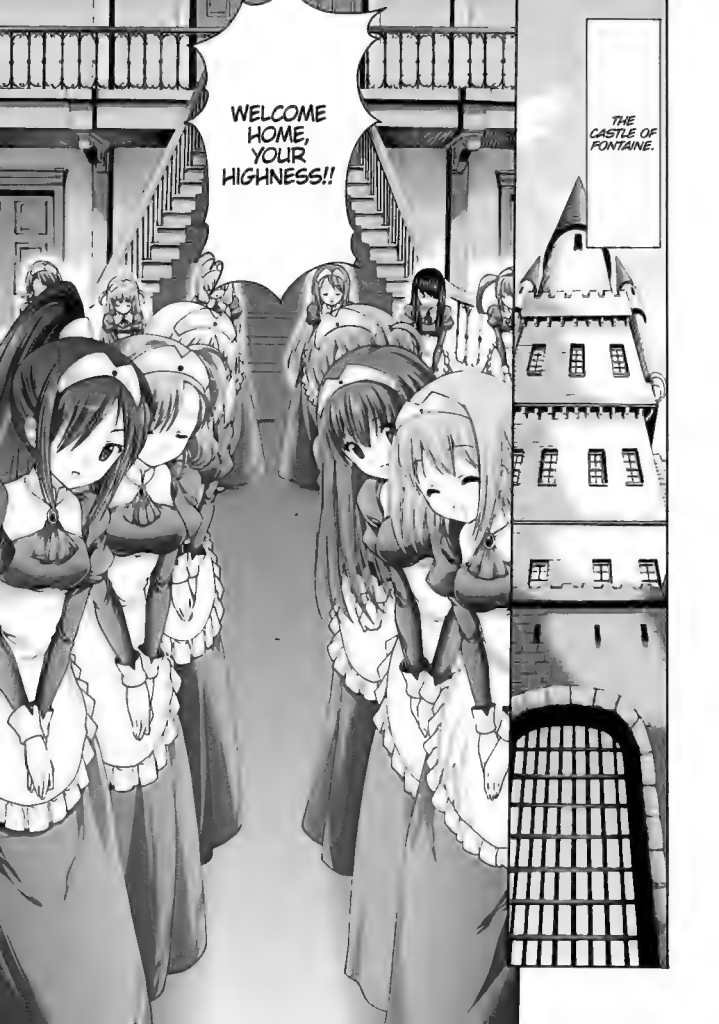
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA.
UH, PRINCESS?

A-
AT ANY RATE...
TROMP
TROMP
LET'S GET GOING!!
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
SHE'S BEING SO SELFISH AFTER WE GRACIOUSLY CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR HER...!
AND EITHER WAY...
THEY DID IT TO ME TOO.
THE PRINCESS CAN'T BE SEEN JUST WANDERING AROUND WITH SOME RANDOM MALE STUDENT.
A PROUD MEMBER OF THE DRAGON TRIBE REDUCED TO THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! QUIT DAWDLING!!
WHY THE HECK AM I DRESSED LIKE THIS?!
The same as
Cos-ette!


THE CASTLE OF FONTAINE.
WELCOME HOME, YOUR HIGHNESS!!

WOW! THAT'S A LOT OF MAIDS!
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE PALADIN IS WAITING FOR YOU.
THERE IS NOTHING THAT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER GREETING THE PALADIN!
THIS WAY, IF YOU WILL.
J-JUST A MOMENT, FRIEDA...!
FIRST I NEED TO SHOW OUR GUESTS AROUND--
CERTAINLY NOT!
UGH... VERY WELL.
UM, PRINCESS?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE. EVERYTHING OKAY?
ASH...
SORRY! SORRY!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

Time for your punishment!!!
WH-WHAT? DO YOU MEAN--?
FEEEK!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE FIRST MET PRINCESS VERONICA...

NO MATTER WHAT MY FATHER SAYS OR DOES...
PLEASE DON'T ALLUDE TO... ANYTHING.

?!
GAH!
WHAM
SQUISH

IF SO, I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO JUST GO ALONG WITH IT...
BUT IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE THAT HER ENTIRE FAMILY IS THAT FRIGHTENING AND OVER THE TOP?
CLACK
STRIDE STRIDE...
Hmm...

AAH--! I-I'M SO SORRY!!
A WHITE COAT ...?
THE SILVANUS WILL BE LANDING MOMENTARILY. WE MUST HURRY.
YES, OF COURSE.

HUH?
OH, UH... YES.
I WONDER WHO SHE IS...
WOW. SHE RADIATES NOBILITY!
ASH!! THIS WAY!!
YOU SHOULD BE...
ON YOUR WAY QUICKLY AS WELL, SHOULDN'T YOU?
HEY, YOU...
HM?
THAT SQUISHING SOUND JUST NOW...
UM? SQUISHING ...?
I... GUESS I DID HAVE MY HAND OUT IN FRONT OF ME TO TAKE THE IMPACT WHEN WE COLLIDED...!
AWW, DARN!
THAT WAS SO RUDE OF ME!
What are you going on about?

YOU'RE ENTERING THE AUDIENCE CHAMBER.
RRRUUMMM
ゴゴゴゴゴ
FATHER...
I HAVE RETURNED HOME.

SO THAT'S PALADIN OSWALD...!
GULP...
WHAT A COMMANDING PRESENCE!!
BBLLLEEEE
HOW GOOD OF YOU TO REJOIN US...

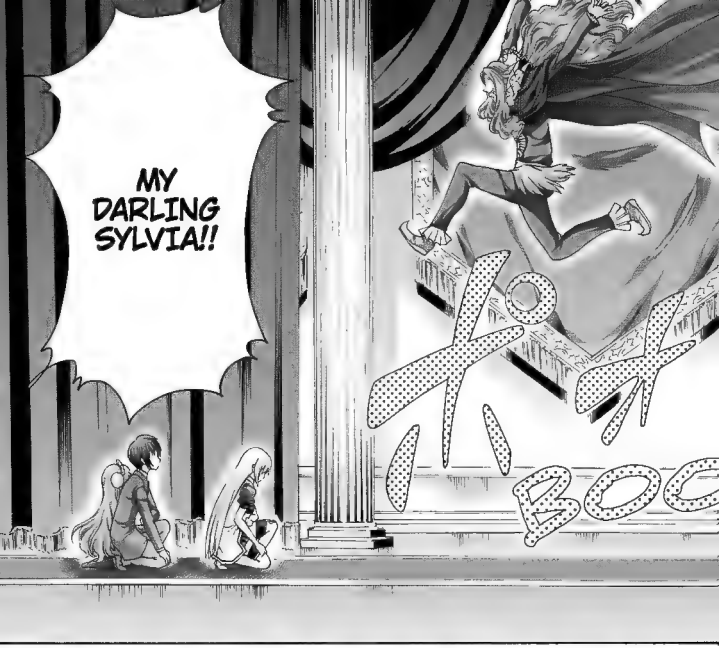
MY DARLING SYLVIA!!
MY DAUGHTER!
BOOOUND

KA-POW
UGH, HOW IRRITATING!!

.....
HUH ...?
STAND

MY DAUGHTER!
DOUND

.....
HUH ...?
STAND


MY DARLING SYLVIA!!

KA-POW
UGH, HOW IRRITATING!!

WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
THUD
.....
WHA...
BUT REALLY! HA HA HA!!
SHOOTH
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
AFTER GOING SO LONG WITHOUT LAYING EYES ON THE FACE OF MY BELOVED DAUGHTER, I COULDN'T RESTRAIN MYSELF!

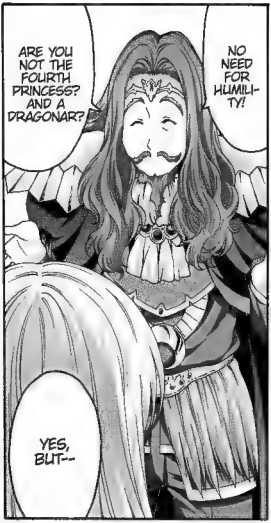
HO HO!
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
AHHH, YOUR TONGUE GETS SHARPER AND SHARPER ALL THE TIME! YOU SOUND LIKE YOUR MOTHER~!
.....
.....
NOW, SYLVIE... WHY NOT LET YOUR FATHER HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR LOVELY FACE, HMM? ♡
KINDLY KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. YOU'RE REPULSIVE.
GETTING SO MUCH ENJOYMENT OUT OF HAVING YOUR DAUGHTER SCOLD YOU IN FRONT OF GUESTS IS UNACCEPTABLE!!
BOOT
GYAHO ?!
TH...
THIS IS THE PALADIN ...?
SOOOO! YOU MUST BE ASH BLAKE AND THE YOUNG DRAGON ECO!
POKE
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU BOTH!
Y-YES! IT'S AN HONOR, SIRE!
BEAM
BEAM
BUT...IT'S WEIRDLY EASY TO TALK TO HIM. HUNH.

EXCUSE ME! WHO'S THE WOMAN IN THAT PAINTING?
AHHH, YES.
THAT PORTRAIT IS OF...
SYLVIE'S MOTHER, ELIZABETH.
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
THE QUEEN DIED YEARS AND YEARS AGO.
BUT I DO KNOW SHE WAS A BRAVE AND VALOROUS ARK DRAGONAR ...!
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS TWO.
I DON'T REMEMBER HER VERY WELL..
I'VE ALWAYS ASPIRED TOWARD HER DIGNITY AND NOBILITY.

WELL, FATHER? ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU SUMMONED US?
I'M STILL A STUDENT! HAVING ME ATTEND THE ELYSIUM IS--

EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE PALADIN, AND THAT'S MY DREAM...
I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE MY FATHER.
MMMM~! AND YOUR SEVERITY IS BECOMING MORE LIKE ELIZABETH'S TOO! ♡

VERONICA DID?!
WHAT'S MORE, VERONICA RECOM-MENDED BRINGING YOU.


ARE YOU NOT THE FOURTH PRINCESS? AND A DRAGONAR?
NO NEED FOR HUMILI-TY!
YES, BUT--

MY SISTER, HUH?
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
THE SILVANUS WILL BE LANDING MOMENTARILY. WE MUST HURRY.
RIGHT-- WE HEARD THE SILVANUS MENTIONED!

AH, YES. WELL, ADMINISTERING GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS IS REMARKABLY DIFFICULT, YOU KNOW!
SO THIS TIME AROUND, I'VE DELEGATED MANY TASKS TO MY MOST CAPABLE SUBORDINATES, SO--
Can I get out of these clothes soon?
HOW DOES THAT EXPLAIN CALLING FOR ASH AND ECO DURING SUCH A BUSY TIME?
FINE. THE TRUTH IS, A FOOL LIKE ME SERVES ONLY AS A CEREMONIAL FIGUREHEAD FOR THE NATION.
SIGH...
BLANCH
AND BY "MANY" YOU MEAN "ALL OF THEM," DON'T YOU?
DON'T TRY TO PUT A GOOD SPIN ON IT JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE COMPANY.
THE THING IS, ASH...
MY FATHER NEVER EVEN RECEIVED A DRAGON FROM THE MOTHER DRAGON.
THE TRUTH IS EMBARRASSING.
HUH ?!
BUT... BUT YOU'RE THE PALADIN--!

Hey...!
MUFFLE
FATHER... DID YOU SUMMON THEM JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY WORK TO DO AND GOT BORED...?
I CAN'T REALLY ARGUE.

HUH ...?!
BUT THE KNIGHTDOM OF LAUTREAMONT HAS HAD SUCH A DEEP, LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DRAGON TRIBE! THAT'S JUST PATHETIC!!

.....?
With us...?
The king? Intrigued?!
SIGH...

HA HA HA!
I KEPT HEARING RUMORS ABOUT THEM, SO I GOT INTRIGUED!
YOU CALIGHT ME!

OF COURSE, THAT WASN'T MY ONLY REASON.
AS PALADIN, I ALSO WANTED TO GIVE THEM AN APPROPRIATE REWARD FOR THEIR BRAVE SERVICE TO THE KNIGHTDOM!

UNTIL THEN, I HOPE YOU TWO CAN RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR STAY.
FRIEDA, PLEASE SHOW THEM TO THEIR CHAMBERS.
ALL WILL BE REVEALED AT THE BANQUET TONIGHT!
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE, EXACTLY?
HUH?
I STILL HAVE THINGS TO DISCUSS WITH MY FATHER.
YOU TWO GO ON AHEAD.
YES. MY NAME IS FRIEDA SHERRY.
ER...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ESCORTING US. "FRIEDA," WAS IT?
THAT'S ONE JOVIAL KING, HUH?

I HAVE A COUSIN BY THAT NAME. WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
N-NOTHING, REALLY.
"SHERRY"?
OH! ARE YOU RELATED TO COSETTE SOMEHOW?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
STEP
Ha ha...
SO HARSH...
THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR GUESTS SUCH AS YOURSELVES TO BE HERE.
PARDON MY FRANKNESS, BUT WE'RE ALL VERY BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELYSIUM.
THIS IS YOUR ROOM.
CRASH
SHATTER
?!
I HONORED YOU BY COMING ALL THIS WAY! HOW DARE YOU-- MMF?!
Stop that, Eco! Down!
FORTUNATELY, PRINCESS VERONICA KINDLY SENT SOMEONE OVER TO SEE TO YOUR NEEDS.

I'M SOOOO SORRY~!!
WAAAAH! FRIEEEEDA!
WHAM
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!
BAM
Eyes up, dog!
OOF!
I COULDN'T HELP IT...
P...PRIM?!

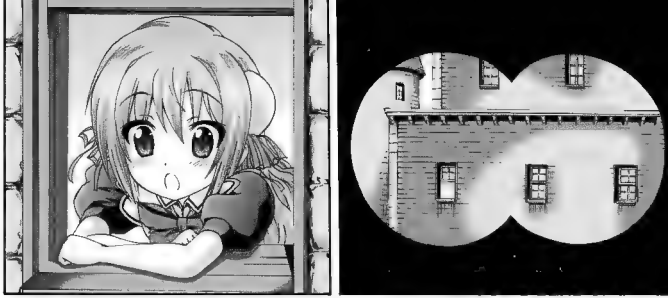
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?!
HOW VULGAR!!
VHHP
WHEN I STARTED CLEANING, MY CLOTHES KEPT GETTING DIRTY, SO--
SO YOU TOOK THEM OFF?! DEPLORABLE!
THAT'S WHAT A MAID'S UNIFORM IS FOR!!
WAIT-- THIS IS HER ATTEMPT AT CLEANING?!
O-- OH, NO! PLEASE LET ME--
BUT --!
NO, SERIOUSLY
ANYWAY, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
I WAS ACTUALLY IN A BIT OF A FUNK
IT'S FINE! I'M USED TO DOING IT.
OH, THANK YOU!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

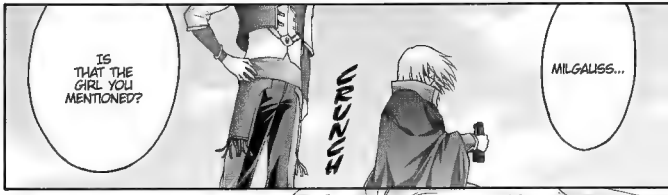
ALL OF A SUDDEN, THIS ISN'T ANY FUN AT ALL!!
HMPH! WHAT IS HER PROBLEM?! AND THEN THERE'S SYLVIA...
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT...
MY BIG BROTHER. ABOUT JULIUS.
A PLEASANT LITTLE FATHER-DAUGHTER CHAT! ♪
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME SERIOUSLY, FATHER.
HEH HEH! THIS IS DELIGHTFUL, SYLVIE! ♡

RECOIL
NO, NO, NO!
WE ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T SPEAK ABOUT HIM!
WAS HE REALLY EXECUTED?
WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
THE BOY WAS A DRAGON SLAYER!
PRINCE OR NO PRINCE, THAT'S AN UNFORGIVABLE CRIME!
.....
I...I UNDERSTAND.
AHEM!
N-NOW, LET'S NEVER ENTERTAIN SUCH SILLY QUESTIONS AGAIN! UNDERSTOOD?!
SUCH MATTERS AFFECT THE WHOLE KNIGHTDOM'S HONOR!
SQUEAK
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THEN.

THE MOMENT I BROUGHT UP MY BROTHER...
FATHER'S EYEBROWS TWITCHED.
HOW DID IT GO, PRINCESS?
IT'S ONE OF HIS TELLS WHEN HE LIES.
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE!!
WHAM
HIS LEFT EYEBROW GOES UP.

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE MY BROTHER "DIED."
AND MORE AND MORE, I SEE THINGS ALL AROUND ME...
THAT FATHER SHOWED HIM MERCY.
THAT INDICATE...
ゴォォォ
RUMBLE
オォォ
BILLOW




MILGALISS...
CRUNCH
IS THAT THE GIRL YOU MENTIONED?

INDEED SHE IS.
THAT'S THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF AVALON.

HEE HEE!
I SEE.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT...

UNTIL WE FORCE HER TO TAKE HER SEAT...
ON OUR MECHANIZED THRONE!
to be continued.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

AFTERWORD

It's me, RAN!

It's been two years since I was allowed to become part of Dragonar Academy, and now here we are with volume 5!

I'm profoundly grateful to Mizuchi-sensei and Shimesaba-sensei, who worked on the original books, and to the many, many members of the staff, and to everyone who picked up this volume.

With volume 5, we've completed the Lucca Arc and are moving on to the Eco's Awakening Arc!

Anya is on the cover of this volume, but she didn't appear much. Don't worry, though! She'll soon be back to get in Ash's way again.

In the Awakening Arc, the story is going to really get moving! I plan to focus intently and draw it to the absolute best of my ability, so please come check it out again!

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A horde of undead dragons known as *necromancia* attack Ash and his friends, while countless more swarm towards the nearby dragon rider's training camp. Are the best and brightest of Ansullivan Dragonar Academy up to the task of fending off an endless swarm of engineered monsters?

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